

Mes Amies

From February 22 through March 20, Beck Fine Art Gallery will celebrate its first *Salon des Beaux-Arts* show. Creators **Dan Beck**, owner of Beck Fine Art Gallery, and **E. Melinda Morrison** drew inspiration for the show from French artists in the late 1800s.

During this time, many French Impressionists opted to create their own shows outside of the mainstream French salon circuit, allowing them the freedom to paint beyond the confined rules prescribed to them by the art world. In a similar spirit Beck and Morrison—who are longtime friends and art contemporaries—took inspiration from these artists and decided to create their own salon.

Based on friendship, artistic excellence, national reputation and exceptional talent, Beck and Morrison invited a group of nationally acclaimed and award-winning artists to participate in the show alongside them.

“Rhythm of values, colors and brushwork were the tools I used to convey the moment this young woman was experiencing fixing her headdress,” Morrison says about her aptly named painting, *Simple Joy*. “The painting gave me joy just in painting it!”

Beck’s work featured in the show—including *Proud*, a painting of a young woman—also creates emotional connec-

tions from its strong depictions of facial expressions.

“Other than the shapes and colors of the subject, the next most important thing to me is the attitude or mood of the model,” Beck reflects about the work. “Everything about this model just reminded me of a proud countenance.”

Chicago-based artist **Kevin Beilfuss** brings an ethereal take to the show with *Enchanted Forest*. “The idea behind the painting, *Enchanted Forest*, was to have the figure meld with the background using abstract patterns,” he says. “I wanted the painting to be more about the light and the way it hits the figure and landscape simultaneously—making the viewer have to look twice to notice the figure in the painting.”

Also featured in the show is **John Cook**, who brings Western flair to an otherwise impressionist painting with *Gimmie a Minute*. “Besides his superbly sprawling mustache, I was compelled to stare at his beautifully weathered and aging face,” Cook says. “As for the title? *Gimmie a Minute* was the first thought that came to me when [the subject] was in no hurry to do anything!” ●

1
Kevin Beilfuss,
Enchanted Forest, oil
on canvas, 24 x 20"

2
E. Melinda Morrison, *Simple Joy*, oil on canvas, 18 x 24"

3
Dan Beck, *Proud*, oil
on canvas, 12 x 9"

Beck Fine Art Gallery 545 Castle Street • Wilmington, NC 28401 • (910) 299-8288 • www.beckfineart.com



